

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 3-8, 10, 14-18, 31-36, 41-44, and 55-59 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 10, 14, 31, 41, and 55-59 are independent. Claims 3, 10, 14, 31, and 41 are hereby amended. Claims 55-59 are hereby added. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11-13, 19-30, 37-40, and 45-54 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

Applicants note that claims 3-8, 10, 14-18, 31-36, and 41-44 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claims 3, 10, 14, 31, and 41 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims.

Therefore, claims 3, 10, 14, 31, and 41 are patentable. New claims 55-59 are similar in scope to claims 3, 10, 14, 31 and 41, respectively, and are also patentable.

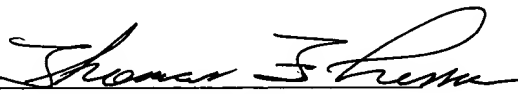
The title is hereby amended.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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